

BELLINGHAM LOCAL DISTRICT COUNCIL
ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1948

The general health of the population throughout the year was only moderate. Infectious Disease was very prevalent. The year began fairly well with only a few cases of Mumps at Otterburn. Epidemic Jaundice was fairly prevalent and continued in a mild way until April.

In February Influenza of both Gastric and Bronchial types broke out. The Mumps epidemic at Otterburn spread rapidly and also reached the North Tyne area. This continued through March unabated.

April saw the Mumps epidemic at Otterburn still rising and it now spread to Bellingham.

Influenza of a mild type was widespread in May and June. The North Tyne circumscribed epidemic of Scarlet Fever occurred at Howdon and continued into June.

June saw the virtual end of the Mumps outbreak although a few solitary cases cropped up until September. About this time Chicken-Pox began at Otterburn and spread rapidly and eventually reached Woodburn.

Measles began at Otterburn in July. But Chicken Pox by now was dying out.

Measles continued throughout August at Otterburn in addition to one or two belated cases of Chicken Pox and Mumps.

September saw measles still going at Otterburn and at the same time Whooping Cough commenced in Bellingham. Measles also began at Bellingham.

In October measles were very widespread in Bellingham and had extended to the North Tyne area. At the same time a few cases of Chicken Pox broke out around Kielder.

In November Measles had finished at Otterburn but was still prevalent at Bellingham and in the upper part of Howdon. One case of Para-Typhoid occurred in Bellingham. The source of infection could not be traced.

December saw the end of the measles epidemic but there was still a few cases of Mumps at Woodburn, also four cases of Scarlet Fever in the same area and a fairly extensive outbreak of Chicken Pox in the upper part of the North Tyne.

The use of Serum proved most effective in stopping out Scarlet Fever. There is no doubt that most of the infectious diseases outbreaks in the area are due to the evacuees going home for holiday.

Unrecorded Disease does not appear to exist as far as is known.

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